

## Annexure EDR - 78

**From:** Sia Lagos  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 November 2018 5:18 PM  
**To:** All Judges; Registrars - National  
**Cc:** NOR Team  
**Subject:** Update: Registrar recruitment

### UNCLASSIFIED

Dear Judges and Registrars

As you are aware, over the past few months we have been undertaking an extensive recruitment exercise to backfill a number of vacant National Judicial Registrar positions and, as part of the extension of the National Court Framework to the work undertaken by registrars, establishing registrar resources to support judges nationally, including through greater availability to conduct mediations and specialist support in the area of migration.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Tim Luxton, Murray Belcher and Russell Trott, on their appointment to the National Judicial Registrar and District Registrar roles for the VIC, QLD and WA registries respectively, and Katie Stride on her appointment to the National Judicial Registrar - Native Title position.

In addition, I would to congratulate and welcome the following Registrars to the Court, who will be introduced to Judges and staff as part of their induction program:

#### **Senior National Judicial Registrar – Paul Farrell**

This position will be primarily responsible for the national management of Judicial Registrars and overseeing the national allocation of registrar work, perform delegated judicial functions at a high level, including conducting complex mediations and case management nationally, and supporting National Coordinating NPA judges with the management of NPAs. Paul will be located in Sydney and commences with the Court on 30 January 2019. Paul was Senior Corporate Counsel for 10 years at AON Risk Services. Paul is a specialist in insurance law and has extensive experience in commercial, intellectual property, defamation, employment and trade practices litigation. Prior to working at AON, Paul was a partner at a national commercial law firm.

#### **National Judicial Registrar – Susan O'Connor**

This position will be primarily responsible for performing delegated judicial functions at a high level, including conducting complex mediations and case management locally and nationally, and supporting National Coordinating NPA judges with the management of NPAs. Susan will be located in Sydney and commences with the Court on 19 November 2018. Susan was Principal at Griffith Hack Lawyers where she led and managed lawyers across Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth. Susan has over 17 years' litigation experience and is an expert in intellectual property law and also has extensive litigation experience in consumer law, competition law and general commercial law.

#### **National Judicial Registrar – Claire Giltsham**

This position will be primarily responsible for performing delegated judicial functions at a high level, including conducting complex mediations and case management locally and nationally, and supporting National Coordinating NPA judges with the management of NPAs. Claire will be located in Melbourne and commences with the Court on 30 January 2019. Claire was a partner at Thomson Geer, Melbourne - Dispute Resolution and has over 10 years' experience in complex commercial litigation, specialising in commercial and superannuation matters, intellectual property and general litigation. Claire also has extensive mediation and arbitration experience.

#### **National Judicial Registrar – Matthew Benter**

This position will be primarily responsible for performing delegated judicial functions at a high level, including conducting complex mediations and case management and supporting National Coordinating NPA judges with the management of NPAs. Matthew will be located in Perth and commences with the Court on 19 November 2018. Matthew has over 20 years' experience in civil litigation across private practice, government and in-house roles. Matthew has extensive experience in large scale and complex litigation, corporate regulation and the civil penalty

regime and administrative law. At ASIC, Matthew was responsible for all civil and administrative litigation undertaken by ASIC's Enforcement Directorate in WA. Matthew also comes to the Court as an accredited mediator.

#### **Judicial Registrar & District Registrar Tasmania – Susie Stone**

Susie will be located in Hobart and commences with the Court on 19 November 2018. The focus of Susie's work will be across Tasmania and Victoria, as well as undertaking work nationally. Susie was Counsel at Allens, Melbourne where she led and managed a team of lawyers. Susie has over 14 years' experience in civil litigation at a senior level and has acted for and advised large corporate clients in relation to general commercial litigation, and worked on large and complex matters (including Class Actions). Susie is experienced in commercial and corporations law, taxation law, administration and constitutional law, international arbitration and personal and corporate insolvency.

#### **Judicial Registrar – Tuan Van Le**

This position will perform a dual role, as a Judicial Registrar carry out delegated judicial functions, such as Court work and mediations (primarily in Victoria but also at a national level), and a national role working on the extension of the National Court Framework. This will commence with his involvement in supporting the implementation of the national arrangements for the allocation of Judicial Registrar work. Tuan commenced with the Court on 8 October 2018 and is located in Melbourne. Tuan was the Executive Director of the Legal Services Branch, ATO. Tuan also acted, on numerous occasions, as the Assistant Commissioner, ATO, where he was responsible and accountable for all litigation nationally, and has extensive experience in a number of areas of law, including insolvency and administrative law.

#### **Judicial Registrars (Migration) – Suzanne Carlton & Simon Hagg**

These positions will be primarily responsible for the national management of the migration workload of the FCA and FCC, with a view to better coordinating the large volume of migration-related work and supporting judges hearing migration-related cases and in developments in migration law. Suzanne commenced with the Court on 8 October 2018 and is located in Adelaide. Suzanne was a reviewer at the Immigration Assessment Authority, as well as a member of the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT). Prior to this position Suzanne was appointed for a 5 year term as a member of the Migration and Refugee Review Tribunals and continued as a member in the Migration and Refugee Division of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT). Prior to being appointed as a member of the AAT, Suzanne worked as a Senior Solicitor at the Crown Solicitor's Office and a Manager & Migration Agent at the Australian Refugee Association. Simon commenced with the Court on 29 October 2018 and is located in Melbourne. Simon was a Senior Associate in the Advisory, Compliance & Government Relations team at Fragomen since June 2012. Simon's role involved liaising with the Department of Home Affairs in relation to immigration policy. Prior to his role at Fragomen, Simon worked as an immigration lawyer at Visa Lawyers Australia, where he was the instructing solicitor on litigation in the FCA and FCC.

#### **National Registrars – Meredith Cridland, Adam Bundy & Rohan Muscat**

These position will be primarily responsible for managing critical functions of the Court, including the management and allocation of first instance and appellate work to judges on a national basis, in-depth statistical analysis and assessment of federal law work (across first instance and appellate matters), legal and case management support for judges and Judicial Registrars, including undertaking legal research and providing legal support with complex and large matters, and supporting the development of policy and practice for the Court. Meredith commenced with the Court on 8 October 2018 and is located in Sydney. Meredith was the Senior Consumer Rights Advisor at CHOICE. In this role, Meredith analysed customer disputes (mainly in relation to Australian Consumer Law) from a legal and practical perspective and has overseen advice to more than 3000 individuals. Meredith has more than 20 years' experience practicing in commercial litigation (professional indemnity, competition and consumer law, insolvency and contractual disputes), intellectual property and admiralty and maritime law at law firms, including HWL Ebsworth. Adam commenced with the Court on 8 October 2018 and is located in Melbourne. Adam was the Associate to Deputy President McCabe – Taxation and Commercial Division Head at the AAT. Adam has extensive experience in the case management of matters, undertaking legal research and liaison with the judiciary and the legal profession. Rohan is located in Sydney. Rohan was a member of the NOR Team, undertaking extensive work on policy and practice, such as amendments to multiple practice notes and assisting with the development of new practice notes. In addition, Rohan has been providing legal and case management support for Judicial Registrars, including undertaking legal research and providing legal support with complex and large mediations, and large discovery disputes.

Kind regards

Sia

**Sia Lagos |**

**Principal Judicial Registrar & National Operations Registrar |**

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